

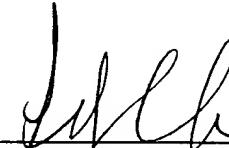
REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 5, 2003 has been received, its contents carefully noted, and the applied citations thoroughly studied. Claims 22, 23, and 25 have been cancelled. The Examiner has indicated that claims 1 through 7 and 9 through 21 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass this case to issue. If, upon further consideration, the Examiner believes further issues remain outstanding or new ones have been generated, undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner call undersigned to expeditiously resolve same.

Dated: April 28, 2004

Respectfully Submitted:



BERNHARD KRETEN
Applicant's Attorney
Telephone (916) 930-9700
Registration No.: 27,037